

>>> "Sherri Norris" <sherri@treatycouncil.org> 12/1/2004 2:40:11 PM

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Dear Jim Marxin, Barbara Cook, Adrian Perez and Ken McGee,

I am writing on behalf of the Mercury Tribal Health and Environmental Justice Program, a partnership with the Pit River Tribe and the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC). Our coalition through the Pit River Tribe is planning on submitting proposals for the Toxic Substances Control Pilot Project and the Water Pilot Project. We have currently completed the rough draft of these, however the proposals must go through proper protocol and be approved through the Pit River Tribal Council before these can be submitted to you. Additionally, our liason in writing these proposals from Pit River was called away on Tribal business to Washington D.C. Therefore, I am writing to let you know a completed and approved proposal is forthcoming and to give a a brief summary of the issue we are proposing be addressed.

Our proposals seek to address the widespread yet largely unknown health and environmental crisis of the mercury contamination in Northern California, focusing on the mines that leak each season in the area utilized by Pit River tribal members. Northern California tribes are concerned that many abandoned gold and mercury mines have never been adequately cleaned up or documented, and continue to produce toxic runoff today. This toxic metal then bioaccumulates in our food sources, primarily in Native Peoples' traditional foods namely fish, causing permanent disabilities and serious public health problems for tribal members, especially affecting the health and development of our children, who are our future generations. This proposal seeks to involve the Pit River Tribal community to get information out, identify hot spots and to initiate cleanup.

IITC staff will be presenting to the CALFED Environmental Justice Subcommittee on this issue and will introduce the Mercury Tribal Health Program and our proposals on Friday, December 3rd from 10am to 2pm in Sacramento. We hope to see you there and will submit our final proposal as soon as it is approved by the Pit River Tribal Council.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding. If you have additional questions I can be reached in our San Francisco Office (information bellow) before Friday or by return email.

Warm wishes,

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